

# 2 Trees in Corrales First Up for Landmark Designation

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*Journal Staff Writer*

The first two trees up for landmark designation in Corrales will be reviewed by the Planning and Zoning Commission on Wednesday.

The Village Council last year passed an ordinance that would protect designated trees from being cut down, damaged or pruned excessively.

The ordinance allows for residents to nominate trees for landmark designation. Those given that designation cannot be removed or harmed in any way, except in the case of an emergency, without prior approval of the village's planning and zoning administrator.

Once a tree is nominated, it must go to the advisory committee. The committee members decide which trees to send to the commission for final approval.

Two trees, one along Corrales

Road and the other on Dixon Road, have made the cut.

Sue Hallgarth, a committee member, nominated the tree on Dixon, which is a large cottonwood in front of her house. The tree arches over the road and is protected by a guard rail. Hallgarth said the tree is 75 feet tall and spreads over 191 feet. She said the tree was threatened in the early 1990s when the village considered chopping it down so it could pave the road. However, the protests of a nearby neighbor won out and the village paved the road around the tree and erected the guard rail to protect it.

Hallgarth said she wanted to serve on the committee partly to save the tree by her house.

"There has been talk in the past of cutting it down," she said. "I really didn't want anybody touching the tree. It's important to everyone in the house and this neighborhood."

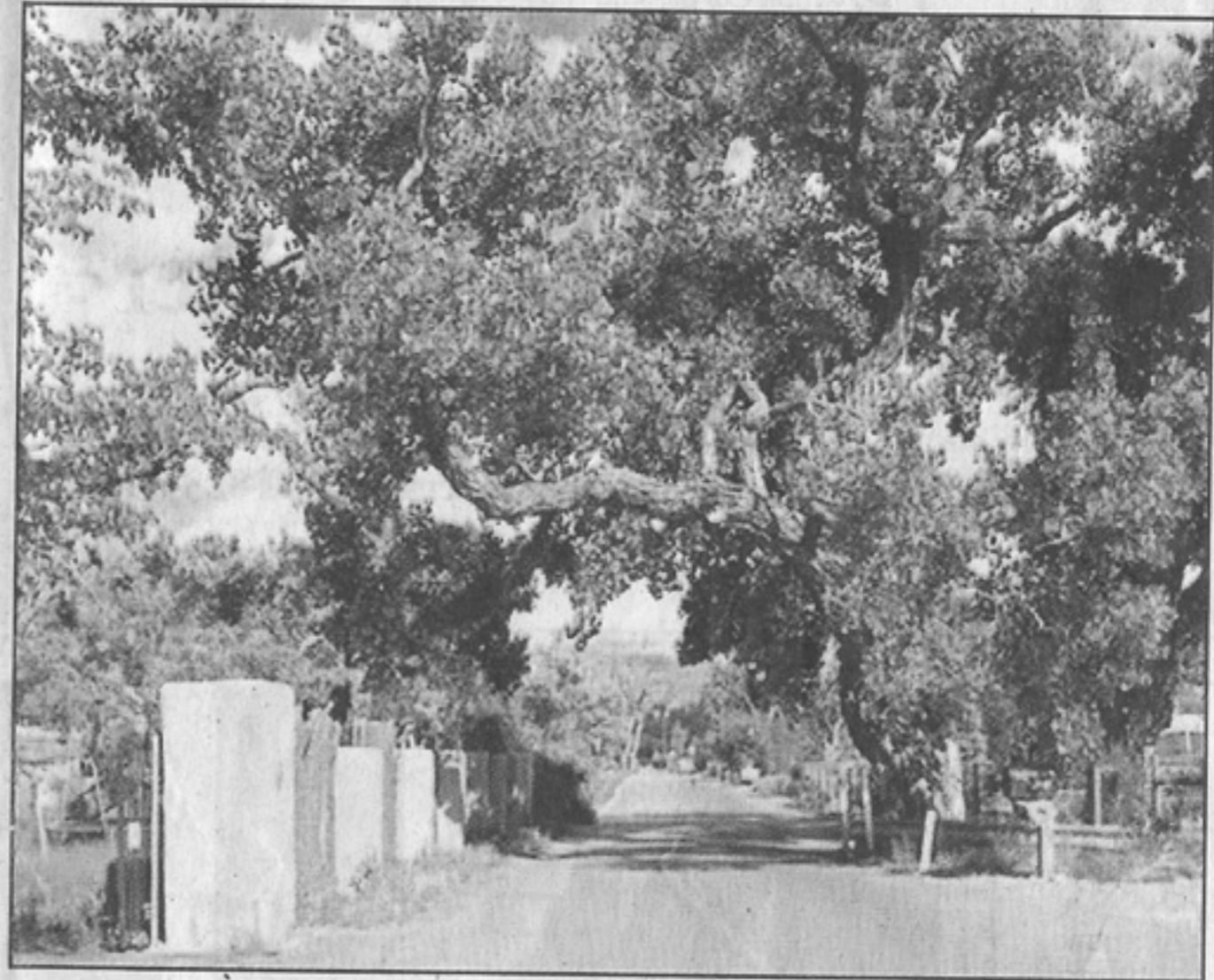
The second tree was nominated by Jill Witt and is on her property at 7777 Corrales Road. The tree, according to Hallgarth, is 63 feet tall and has a canopy of about 191 feet. The tree, she said, can be seen in photos dating back to the 1930s.

If the Planning and Zoning Commission gives its final approval, a plaque will be erected near the tree recognizing it as a historical landmark and it will go into village records as such.

The committee, and the commission, can use several criteria to determine whether a tree deserves a landmark designation. Reasons for designating a tree can include its age, size, appearance and historical significance within Corrales.

Those who harm or cut down a landmark tree could be fined up to \$500.

The commission will meet at 6:30 p.m.



This tree is on Dixon Road and was nominated by Sue Hallgarth. It has been "saved" several times, the most notable being when the village paved the road in the early 1990s.

COURTESY OF SUE HALLGARTH